

Distinguished members of the Health Appropriations Subcommittee:

My name is Michele Millham; I live in Guilford. I am a supporter of CT Against Gun Violence.

I am testifying in support of the \$2.5 million included in the Governor's budget on Line T1449 for the Department of Public Health to fund gun violence intervention grants in FY2024, and the \$400,000 on Line 274 for operational expenses each year in FY2024 and FY2025.

But given the incredible scale crisis of gun violence, especially in Connecticut's urban centers, I believe the grant appropriation needs to be larger, at \$10 million in each year of the fiscal 2024-25 budget.

It feels like gun violence is out of control and there is no clear path to reign it in. I believe the state can and should take an increased leadership role in funding gun violence interventions that can make a difference in the lives of everyday citizens. This funding request is the means to make a difference.

It was exciting to hear that the Governor is proposing \$500 million in tax cuts, but I believe a portion of that money or, even better, the \$2.5 million taken from federal pandemic relief funds, should be dedicated to funding gun violence interventions, with no grant money included beyond next year. It is an investment in improving the health and safety of our citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. I appreciate the thought and effort with which you fulfil your responsibilities to the people of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Michele Millham
Guilford, CT